

Johnson Mills
"Peoples' Roller Flour Mill"



The Johnson Mill
water wheel was a
Pelton wheel.
water went into the
upper inside
and out the bottom.
The wheel was enclosed
& located on the outside
of the north wall.
-This is from Geo W
Johnson interview
5-6-85 by Tel.



HEBER CITY MILL,

(Full Roller System)

Dealer in Grain, Best Brands of Flour,
and all kinds of mill stuff.

Our mill is now fully prepared with a
full line of the very latest and best im-
proved machinery to do work to the
satisfaction of all lovers of

GOOD BREAD.

We guarantee Best Quality of Flour
and prompt attention.

Your patronage is solicited.

NELS JOHNSON, Head Mill
A. HATCH, Proprietor.

ALMA OSCAR JOHNSON



Alma Oscar Johnson was born April 10, 1873, at Heber City, Utah. He married Millie Warr Johnson, who was born June 4, 1881, at Kamas, and they were parents of 14 children. Alma Johnson worked at the Hatch Flour Mill at Heber, also flour mills in Summit County. He and his brother Nels bought and operated flour mills at Midway and Kamas, later dissolving partnership. Nels kept Midway Mill and Alma the Kamas flour mill.

Alma Oscar Johnson died August 13, 1954.

Millie Warr Johnson died February 19, 1917.

p. 463



Nels Joseph Johnson was born June 26, 1870 in Peoa, Summit County, a son of Ola and Marna Walters Johnson. He married Elizabeth Moore at Coalville, July 18, 1896. After her death on June 8, 1898, he married Mary Ann Orgill March 22, 1900. Nels died May 22, 1950.

Mary Ann Orgill was born in Mt. Pleasant, Sanpete County, January 9, 1877, a daughter of Mark and Rachel Isabelle Smith Orgill. She died March 26, 1952.

Nels was the oldest son of Ola and Marna Walters Johnson. His family moved to Heber City when Nels was four years old. He attended public schools in Heber. His early years were spent in helping farmers

in the hay fields. When he reached young manhood he obtained his first job with Thackers Sawmill at Strawberry. He worked until he became the engineer at the mill.

In the winter months he obtained a job in Hatch's Flour Mill and learned the milling business. When the plane sifter system was installed in the Heber Mill by the Barnard and Leighs Company, he was the first miller to learn to run this system. Then this same company installed the system in mills in Oakley, Kamas and Wanship. They hired Mr. Johnson to go to these mills and instruct other millers in the plane sifter system. It was during this time that he met and married Elizabeth Moore. They lived at Oakley, where he supervised these three mills. It was here that the couple's two children were born, Merne and Nels. Elizabeth died shortly after the birth of her son, and the little Nels passed away five months later. After the death of his wife and child he came back to Wasatch county to work in Hatch's Mill again.

Millers at Kamas became unhappy with their work and wanted to quit their jobs so Nels and his brother A. O. Johnson purchased the mill in Kamas and this became Johnson's Brothers Milling Company.

In 1900 Nels married Mary Ann Orgill. They lived at Hatch's mill until after the birth of their first son. In 1902 Nels and his brother purchased the Midway Mill from Mark Jeffs. This partnership continued some fifteen years. Then a coin was flipped to see who would take possession of the Midway Mill. The coin fell in Nels' favor. He paid A. O. the sum of \$5,000 and gave him his share in the Kamas mill because the Midway Mill was considered a better location.

Midway Roller Mills drew on a large territory of Uintah Basin and Wasatch County, and friends that Nels had made in Summit County still patronized his business and did so until he died. Indians came from the reservation, and the government paid a percentage of the cost of grinding besides the toll the Indians paid so they would not be left waiting to have their grain ground. They came by the hundreds and camped overnight in the empty ponds and flat country south of the mill.

During World War I the mill ran day and night to produce flour for the government. This flour was packed in burlap sacks that weighed 140 lbs, when filled. The flour

was shipped to Houston, Texas. People were rationed on the white flour they could use and had to purchase substitute flours. Mr. Johnson acted as government agent in this and made weekly reports.

He was in the milling business sixty years. He served as chairman of the amusement board in Midway, also as a county commissioner for Wasatch County. He owned stock in the Heber Mercantile and Heber City Exchange and was a director in the later concern until his death. He was a member of the Executive Council, Boy Scouts of America and awarded the first eighty-one badges given to Scouts in the county.

Mr. Johnson worked in his mill and supervised his large farm until four years before his death in 1950, at the age of eighty years.

Mary Ann Orgill was the oldest of fourteen children. Her family moved to Daniels Creek when she was eight years old. She was educated in the public schools of Wasatch County.

When Mary reached the age of fourteen, she began to do house work in various homes in the county. She received three dollars a month for her efforts. With this money she bought several items of furniture for her family, and helped buy clothes for her brothers and sisters. She continued on in this work until she was twenty-three years old. She met Nels J. Johnson when she worked in the home of President Abram Hatch in Heber. She and Mr. Johnson were married at her home in Daniels Creek, with President Hatch officiating. The couple made their home in the house provided for the millers close to the mill. They lived here until after the birth of her son. They moved to Midway in 1902.

Mrs. Johnson loved to garden and she had a large garden by her house. She also raised chickens and ducks, geese and turkeys to help supplement the family income.

She did fine sewing, making exquisite embroidery as well as tatting and crocheting. She sewed for her large family and made countless quilts that found their way into homes of brothers, sisters, children and grandchildren.

A little daughter was left to her husband at the death of his first wife, and she cared for her and shared her love and care with this child. A niece also was given this same care and love during the years she made her home in this family.

Mrs. Johnson loved books and music and

recited many poems and sang many songs from memory. She loved The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was an active member. She was Relief Society visiting teacher for many years and headed the visiting teacher classes. She was the social science class leader for many years, and president of the same organization for eight years. She taught a missionary class in the Sunday School organization for about fifteen years. These services were performed in the Midway 1st Ward. Her marriage was solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple, September 24, 1920.

Children of Nels and Elizabeth included:
Mrs. Ellis (Merne Schoney) Edwards;
Nels Johnson, born June 7, and died October 1, 1898.

Children of Nels and Mary Ann included:
George William, married Jennie Pyper;
Ronald Mark, married Hazel Lewis;
Mrs. W. W. (Elizabeth) Newby;
Mrs. Mead (Lucile) Whiting;
Mrs. William (Mildred) Larsen;
Ralph Joseph, married Fawn Clyde;
Mrs. Clifford (Loretta) Sherwood.

GEORGE W. JOHNSON



Bishop of Midway First Ward 1938-1944.

George W. Johnson was born July 9, 1901, a son of Nels Joseph Johnson and Mary Ann Orgill. He was born in Heber City, at the site of the old Hatch Flour and Grist Mill, where his father was the miller. At the age of one, his parents moved to Midway, where they purchased the Flour and Grist Mill formerly owned by Mark Jeff; and here he spent his boyhood, learning the milling business from his father, and attending the elementary schools there, and coming up through the channels of the Church and the priesthood quorums.

He was the oldest child of a family of eight children, four boys and four girls. This

was the second marriage of his father, and there was an older sister living from the first marriage. His early childhood and boyhood were spent mostly with his brothers and sisters as his companions, as they lived out of town and had no near neighbors. They spent many hours together with the mother reading good books aloud to her children and having them take music lessons and other cultural pursuits.

He always took an active part in Church being in the presidency of both the deacon and teachers quorums; and in his late boyhood was a counselor in the MIA under William L. Van Wagoner and also a Sunday School teacher. On November 9, 1921, he was called to serve a mission to the Central States where he labored until June 5, 1924, having many interesting and faith promoting experiences in that time under the presidency of Elder Samuel O. Bennion.

On August 13, 1924, he was married to Jennie Luella Pyper in the Salt Lake Temple, and to their union were born five children, three sons and two daughters. His children are: Max George, Georgia Dawn, Ruth Anna, Keith Pyper, and William Lowell. Keith died at nineteen months, and Ruth Anna was killed in an automobile accident at the age of eighteen years.

The first seven years of his married life he lived in Heber City in the Heber 1st Ward where he was Superintendent of the Sunday School for a number of years and also taught the adult class in MIA. He was also in the presidency of the First Quorum of Elders. Later he moved to Lakeview, Utah County, where he lived for one year and then he purchased the Jesse McCarrol home and farm in Midway and has resided there since that time.

He was sustained as Bishop of the Midway First Ward January 8, 1938, after serving as a counselor to Bishop Clark Bronson for some time and as a member of the Wasatch Stake High Council for eighteen months. The Ward had 525 members at that time. He was ordained a Bishop by Elder Joseph F. Merrill January 13, 1938, in Salt Lake City. He was ordained a High Priest by Elder George Albert Smith. His counselors who served with him in the bishopric were Charles E. Buehler and John H. Joost. The clerks were Clyde Pyper and Ernest Kuhn. He served for five years.

He has served continuously as a teacher in Sunday School Gospel Doctrine Class for

13 years and as a teacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ since he was 18 years of age. He taught the MIA gospel adult class and priesthood quorums both in the ward and the stake; served on the Sunday School and MIA Stake Boards and is now teaching the Wasatch Stake Adult Aaronic Priesthood School, through five complete graduating classes.

He was chosen by the Wasatch Stake young people as the Honorary Master M-Man in 1955. At present he is teaching the M-Men and Gleaner Class in connection with his wife in the Midway First Ward. He has spoken to literally hundreds of funerals during his lifetime, beginning immediately upon his return from a mission and continuing during his lifetime.

His family honor and revere him. His two sons served in the armed forces, and a daughter and a son served missions for the Church. At present he is a well-known farmer and dairyman; and as a hobby he does sound recording and record making; active in many pursuits and enjoying his seven grandchildren at his home in Midway.